

Draft Rich Mix Board Paper for September 2015 as @ July 2015

Rich Mix Creative Learning

Creative Learning Programme: Vision and Aims

We aim to use our creative learning programme to engage young people and families in the joy of the arts. We work in pre-school settings, with schools and organisations such as THAMES to support curriculum based learning and to give young people and their families the chance to experience a wide range of art forms, based in our mainstream programme.

From work we have done with our local communities, we know that barriers to participation in arts include lack of disposable income, unfamiliarity with the venue, and lack of suitable provision. We have sought to address all of these things through our free programme (over 30% of all our arts events are free to access; and discounted tickets for family activities such as our children's theatre strand); through some direct outreach work to bring families into the venue for specific events; and through working with partners who have run storytelling sessions based on Bangladeshi and Somali cultural traditions.

With schools, we have worked to support THAMES in their overarching provision, by providing venues and other support, and by making direct links with teachers in key schools to understand what they need to support learning and teaching in their schools with their students. This has led to support of projects with Mulberry, Morpeth and Bethnal Green which have offered access to leading artists for their pupils, as well as offering mentoring to their students as a contribution to their employability skills work.

Between April 2014 and March 2015 86 artists were employed to deliver work for, by and/or with children and young people

For families our focus in 2015/16, will see us continuing with our programme of 'Family Festival Sundays' which will see activity which is specifically for families in a welcoming environment, encouraging families to enjoy art together and to take in a free exhibition whilst they are visiting the venue.

For young people, our focus in 2015/16 is towards developing young people as performers and producers, developing our visual arts engagement offer, offering young people access to artists, continued work with schools and creating progression and networking routes for young creatives. We are developing our Rich Mix Young Ambassadors, a newly recruited team of eight 16-21 year olds who are curating, organising, and producing two events for the 2015 Youth Takeover. As well as their direct work in supporting the Takeover, the team have met various member of the Rich Mix staff gaining industry insights and advice on career progression.

The young Ambassadors team has gained a range of skills and knowledge in

event production at a professional venue and have bonded well as a group that support one another. They have enjoyed masterclasses about producing events and venue logistics.

Somewhereto_

Another key partnership is our work with Pitch to the Mix in partnership with somewhereto_

Somewhereto_ is a charity dedicated to giving young people the chance to access opportunities to develop arts and creative skills and employment. Our role as a strategic partner is set out below.

Once per season young people working with the somewhereto_ team are invited to Pitch to the Mix; a session to pitch an event idea to Rich Mix for the chance to win free space for an event. Since 2011 we've enabled over 150 young people to get involved in delivering their own events as part of this project. Recent events added to the Rich Mix programme through *Pitch to the Mix* sessions include Strolling and Uncle and Mister; which attracted sell out audiences. Cecile Emke's Strolling has recently been featured by The Guardian.

Winners of previous seasons have been invited back to perform as part of the main arts and culture programme. During 2015 our main programme has showcased Acting Up and Merging Inks, curated by artists who initially won Pitch to the Mix and had the first showcases here the venue.

Rich Mix Youth Takeover

We are about to run our third edition of our successful Youth Takeover programme, which began on August 2013.

The event in August 2014 attracted over 2600 young people. The diversity of young people attending was improved with some short term funding for a post dedicated to reaching out to local youth and groups.

Our third year has attracted partners such as Barbican, Arts Depot, Battersea Art, Hackney Empire, Graeae and more. The programme is dedicated to local 16-25 year olds for 22 days and, with external sponsorship, is continuing to be free to access in order to make it as accessible as possible for local young people from low income families. This year we are delighted to be working with Mile End Community Project to collaborate on an outreach programme designed to reach local Bangladeshi and Somali young people.

The Takeover consists of 56 events curated and performed by 44 different partners. A link to the programme can be found at http://www.richmix.org.uk/downloads/festivals/Rich_Mix_Youth_Takeover_Flyer_2015.pdf

The festival will host 3 Pitch to the Mix winners, 2 Young Ambassadors' nights, masterclasses, meetings with industry professionals, technology and production workshops, live industry showcases, theatre, concerts and much

more. During the day there will be workshops and opportunities to meet sector professionals. The evening will host scratch nights and live events showcasing the very best in spoken word, music, comedy, dance and theatre

Summary of activity with schools between January 1st 2015 and 30th June 2015.

Since the beginning of the year, as at 30 June, 39 schools in total have visited Rich Mix. We have worked directly on projects with 17 schools, both primary and secondary, and 3232 young people have participated in events at Rich Mix. As part of this total, we have welcomed the following 20 LBTH schools:

- London Enterprise Academy*
- Cambridge Heath Sixth Form*
- Bow School*
- George Green's*
- William Davies*
- St Pauls Trust*
- Bethnal Green Academy*
- Oaklands*
- Morpeth*
- Tower Hamlets College*
- English Martyrs*
- St. Anne's Primary*
- Columbia Primary*
- Swanlea*
- Stepney Green*
- Bow Boys*
- Sir John Cass*
- Mulberry School for Girls*
- Thomas Buxton*
- Stewart Hedlum*

Following the Youth Takeover which will take place at the end of the Academic Year, we will provide a final figure of young people who have engaged with Rich Mix during the academic year 2014/2015.

Schools Highlights

The following table outlines the major projects that we have undertaken with local schools during the last Academic Year.

School	Engagement 2014/2015
Bethnal Green Academy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Provided rehearsal space in kind for Year 12 exam rehearsals · Provided performance space in kind for Year 12 exam performance · Attended Alchemy dance project in collaboration with Southbank Centre

Morpeth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Took part in Drik photography project in March/April 2014 as part of our Bangladeshi Freedom Week festival · Exhibited work from a year-long project with Drik from October 2014 to July 2015. Drik is a photography company based in Bangladesh and photographer Shahidul Alam led the project. Each student assisted with the organisation and creation of art work for an exhibition hosted at Rich Mix in July 2015. http://richmixlondon.tumblr.com/post/122941828603
William Davies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Attended a family festival Sunday with Mwalimu Express, the school met the artists and other children in the local community. · Created a piece of work with resident musical partners Grand Union. The workshop was led by tabla and percussion expert Yousuf Ali Khan with the support of 2 other musicians from Grand Union.
Tower Hamlets College	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Attended participatory performance of William Davies work. The work introduced young people to a variety of songs and music from Bangladesh and India mixed with other world music traditions.
Columbia Primary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Attended participatory performance of William Davies work as above.
English Martyrs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Attended participatory performance of William Davies work as above.
St. Anne's Primary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Attended participatory performance of William Davies work as above.
St Paul's Way	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Took part in a Graphic Novels workshop in collaboration with the Southbank Centre
Lister school	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Took part in a Graphic Novels workshop in collaboration with the Southbank
George Green school	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Organised and produced an exhibition of photography, entitled Island Girl, which was displayed our gallery.

Drama in the Mix March 2015

In addition to our regular projects, our flagship radio drama project with schools - Drama in the Mix - continued with work in partnership with Roundhouse, Half Moon Theatre and East London Radio. With support from British Land, now confirmed for three years, this work has established a regular slot in our local schools curriculum planning to enable their young people to learn new skills and perform in a new medium, enabling able and less able students alike to build their self-confidence. Drama in the Mix showcase took place in March 2015 and will continue in 2015-16, with a showcase in March 2016. Our focus continues to be on schools in Tower Hamlets and Hackney.

In Academic year 2014/15, the following TH schools participated ;

*London Enterprise Academy
Cambridge Heath Sixth Form
Bow School
George Green's*

Summary of activity 2013/2014

In Academic Year 2013/14 we worked directly on projects with 10 LBTH schools, both primary and secondary, and 7533 young people participated in events at Rich Mix. Over 40 schools visited Rich Mix during this calendar year.

Schools Work

The following table summarises our activity with local schools.

School	Engagement
Bethnal Green Academy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Worked with Grand Union Orchestra to create a performance for Bangladesh Independence week in March 2014; performed at RM to an audience of LBTH primary school children · Provided rehearsal space in kind for Year 12 exam rehearsals · Provided performance space in kind for Year 12 exam performance · Attended <i>Glow</i> by Manjinder Virk and took part in a Q&A session with Manjinder Virk and cast members
Morpeth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Took part in music workshop with RM resident artists Trans-Siberian March band in March 2014. Performed on stage with the band at their gig
St Paul's Way	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Took part in <i>Schoolwrights</i> theatre project in Summer 2014 · Took part in LBTH schools Art completion hosted by RM in partnership with THAMES in Summer 2014 · Took part in a Graphic Novels workshop in November 2014 at Rich Mix. The workshop was part of a bigger exhibition delivered in partnership with the British Council in Bangladesh.
Central Foundation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Took part in Brazil Street art workshops at Rich Mix as part of the Brazil World Cup 2014 <i>Joga Bola!</i>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Took part in in LBTH joint schools exhibition hosted at RM in Summer 2014.
Langdon Park (Secondary)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Took part in a series of visual art workshops with Max Kandhola in March 2014 as part of <i>Aura of Boxing</i> project, which was hosted in our main gallery · Took part in in LBTH joint schools exhibition hosted at RM in Summer 2014
Mulberry School for Girls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Took part in <i>Drama in the Mix 2014</i> · Host school for <i>Schoolwrights</i> project · Took part in in LBTH joint schools exhibition hosted at RM in Summer 2014
William Davis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Took part in the music and literacy project <i>Re-Beats</i> delivered in school
Columbia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Attended the BGA / Grand Union performance in March 2014
Olga	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Took part in <i>New Orleans</i> dance project in school · Attended <i>Pick a Flick</i> schools screenings at Rich Mix
Thomas Buxton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Regulars at <i>Pick a Flick</i> schools screenings at Rich Mix
Virginia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Attended the BGA / Grand Union performance in March 2014 · Regulars at <i>StoryCraft</i> storytelling sessions

Other highlights from 2013/2014:

Families

For families we developed a programme of Family Sundays with activity aimed specifically for families to take place every Sunday. It offered free or low cost family specific activities with theatre shows once per season such as 'Me and My Cat' by A Thousand Cranes, free family art workshops and regulars such as Mwalimu Express.

Rich Mix Young Ambassadors

The team of ten 16-21 year olds, curated, organised, produced and marketed two hugely successful events in 2014. *Life's Short*; a short film night featuring films made by young Londoners had to increase capacity due to demand on tickets and *Up to Scratch*, which featured in the Youth Takeover had to do the same. The team also took up shadowing opportunities with our Front of House team to gain work experience.

Pitch to the Mix in partnership with somewhereto_

Once per season young people working with the somewhereto_ team are invited to Pitch to the Mix; a session to pitch an event idea to Rich Mix for the

chance to win free space for an event. Since 2011 we've enabled over 150 young people to get involved in delivering their own events as part of this project. Events added to the Rich Mix programme through Pitch to the Mix sessions are Her Story; which attracted an audience of over 100, Soul Lounge; and Live and Direct which both attracted an audience of 250.